

THE DISTANT SIGNAL

EAST ANGLIAN GROUP NEWSLETTER

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New Year 2017

Editorial

Happy new year one and all!

I hope you had a good one and stayed healthy throughout. As a new year dawns we have time to reflect back on last year and look forward to 2017, firstly a big thank you to those who participated in the Santa specials events at Bressingham and the 16mm running on the layout, thanks in particular to Keith for organising things and doing the lions share, I think most of your locos must be well run in now Keith!

It's important for the group to support the Bressingham events as it secures our relationship with them and ensures the layout has a home. The days I attended were very busy with public with many happy faces.

Some images of the Santa Special running's.



Evan entertaining the crowds at the Santa special, Nice Bunsen burner...



Adam showing of his latest yellow thing, and helping out Keiths loco when it ran out of puff.



'Look its Thomas', (Dad to more knowledgeable child), calm down Keith!



And to illustrate that we don't only run steam locos, I don't know what they are but definatly not steam...

We have a couple of notices of garden events already for this year which is excellent, which are detailed below.

There will be an effort to carry out some track maintenance on the SBLR this winter, dependant on when the museum will be open for us to gain access; I will advertise those dates when I have them if anyone is interested in getting involved. We need to improve the steam up sidings at the back, replace some turnout's to enable the long route through the back of the main station to be used and create a run around loop at the front to allow some shunting in front of the public, which will enable 3 locos in steam if all works well!

I have been working with my son Tim to put together a new web page for the group which will focus on the Bressingham layout and the EAG activity. Please take a look at sblrab.org.

Finally I hope you had at least one 16mm based Xmas present which you are assembling in the cold dark days of winter, I personally received a few more Binnie slate wagons to extend my current rake, which look great behind my Roundhouse Charles as they snake through the turnouts, perhaps you have a build ongoing which would be of interest, if you would like to put a few words together with a photo or two I would be happy to include it. I have been told that the quarry Hunslet Gwynedd will have its official inaugural run at the Bressingham Steam gala day on 29th April-1st May where there will hopefully be a few visiting 2 foot gauge locos, a date for your calendar.

Garden events

Mike Thorpe will be hosting 45mm gauge open days in Roydon on Sunday 23rd April and Sunday 24th September 2017

Rolling stock will be available for those 'narrow gauge' types willing to re-gauge a loco for the day.

Railway open 11am until 5pm on both days, contact 01379 650657.

And from Neil,

As promised some info on progress of our new garden railway and proposed 2017 open days.

Following our move from Castle Camps construction of the new line had to wait until the house refurbishment was complete. The line is 32mm and situated in Great Bradley, near Newmarket.

Progress on phase 1 of the new line is now well advanced with the trackbed substantially completed and laying track started. The line is level having been set out with a laser, currently comprises a continuous circuit of about 50m, with a reversing loop, passing loop and sidings, curves to a minimum radius of 1200mm (except in a couple of sidings). The site has a slight slope with the line at ground level in one corner and about 300mm above ground elsewhere including the loco sidings. There is unlikely to be much scenic detail in place for the inaugural opening but some planting has already taken place and hopefully more of the green stuff will follow in the spring.

A planned phase 2 will add a level single track of about 80m and dedicated steam up tracks about 500mm above ground. Further extension involving a long incline is possible.

Having checked old copies of the 16mm Bulletin, 2017 diary dates, and Bressingham web site to try to avoid clashing with other events we have settled on Sundays 21 May and 3 September 2017

as these seem to be clear. If you know differently please advise asap

Neil

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Suffolk and Borders Light Railway at Bressingham

If this is your first visit, you are most welcome; if a return, then good to see you again. Thanks for your support.

Bressingham ask us to sign in at the office behind the café, presumably so that they know who is on site in the event of an emergency. If you have not yet done so, please pop across the way in order to sign in as soon as you can. We also have our own book, kept above the tunnel, so that we know (and have the evidence) as to how much the circuit is used. Please enter your name whenever you attend. Thank you.

The steaming up area for the outside track is at the rear of the layout, for the inside track both at the rear and next to the locoshed. Anyone working there, steaming up, servicing a loco or just running a train, is encouraged to speak to members of the public, in fact we all are, to try to encourage more to join the hobby and to increase public awareness of the 16mm Association.

When running, please be considerate of others i.e. it is your responsibility to ensure that your train does not collide with another, to remove your rolling stock if it is in the way, and so on. Common sense really. You are more than welcome to use the slate wagons resident at the layout.

Finally, there is no funding for the layout, its maintenance or development, other than is contributed by those using it. If therefore you have enjoyed steaming your train here, please consider making a small donation. There is a tin lid under the circuit, roughly under the rear steaming area. Thank you.

Above all, have a good time!